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Chiang

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1-1-1917

# Letter from May-ling Soong Chiang, 1917-09-06, Shanghai, China, to Emma Mills

May-ling Soong Chiang

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# Letter from May-ling Soong Chiang, 1917-09-06, Shanghai, China, to Emma Mills

## **Transcription**

491 Avenue Joffre  
Shanghai, China  
6 Sept. 1917

Dear Emma:

I am one letter late to you. But I have been so busy. During the last 2 weeks there was only one evening when we either did not give dinners or were not invited out! And of course we never returned until after mid-night. Is there any wonder then that I am tired? Then too we have had our new car, & with the carriage too, we are out most the time.

During one of the dinners, I met Eugene Chen, - editor in chief and owner of the Peking Gazette. Peking is too hot for him at present: therefore Putnam [Weale] is taking his place there, and he is in Shanghai. He has a house on Avenue Joffre also; but he lives much nearer town than we do, - about 3 miles nearer. You know I told you that this is the longest Avenue in Shanghai, and the further away from town, [page break] the more inaccessible and fashionable.

Mother dislikes living so far away from town: she says it is beastly inconvenient. Her idea is therefore to move back to our old house in Honkou. You remember, I told you that we have had that house for over 23 years; consequently now while the house is still as imposing as it used to be, - the district is getting too congested for

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comfort. I have been trying to  
get her to sell the place: the  
land there is the most high-priced  
in Shanghai: but she was so shocked  
and grieved at my callousness towards  
our old home that I have not  
dared to broach the subject again!

I have to admit, though, that  
she is not happy here: this place is  
too foreign and crassly modern for [page break]  
a conservative like my mother. And it  
is very far away from town, and  
away from her charities where she  
spends a great deal of her time,  
energy, and money. She is very devout,  
and likes to be present at all her  
Board meetings. I have therefore  
been trying to find a house  
near town, and yet far enough  
away to have plenty of space.  
My sister Mrs. Kung is not going to  
remain in Shanghai: she returns  
to the North: so there will only be  
my two brothers, Dad, Mother and  
I. The house-hunting problem is  
no joke. I am so tired that  
I'll have to stop now.

Love,  
Mayling



491 Ave. Joffre.

Shanghai - China

6 September, 1911

Dear Emma:

I am so late to you - But I have been so busy - During the last 2 weeks there was only one evening when we either did not give dinners or were <sup>not</sup> invited out! And of course we never returned until after mid-night. Is there any wonder then that I am tired? Then too we have had our new car, & with the carriage too, we are out most the time.

During one of the dinners, I met Eugene Chen, - editor in chief and owner of the Peking Gazette. Peking is too hot for him at present: therefore Putnam Walsh is taking his place there, and he is in Shanghai. He has a house on Avenue Joffre also; but he lives much nearer town than we do, - about 3 miles nearer. You know I told you that this is the longest Avenue in Shanghai, and the further away from town,



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 Mother dislikes living so far away  
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 to move back to our old house  
 in Hukew. You remember, I told  
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 and grieved at my callousness towards  
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 dared to broach the subject again!  
 I have to admit, though, that  
 she is not happy here: this place is  
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a conservative like my mother. And it is very far away from town, and away from her charities where she spends a great deal of her time, energy and money. She is very devoted and likes to be present at all her Board meetings. I have therefore been trying to find a house near town, and yet far enough away to have plenty of space to my sister Mrs. Kemp is not going to remain in Shanghai; she returns to the north: so there will only be my two brothers, Dad, mother and I. The house-hunting problem is no joke. I am so tired that I'll have to stop now.

Love, Mary King